

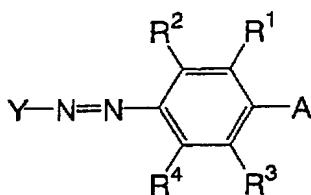
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

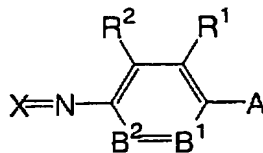
Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An aqueous ink composition comprising a hydrophilic organic solvent, a surfactant, and a colored fine particle dispersion which contains an oil-soluble dye, and exhibiting a dynamic surface tension of 25 to 35 mN/m, wherein the oil-soluble dye is a compound represented by formula (I) or (II):

Formula (I)



Formula (II)



wherein in formulae (I) and (II), R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an amide group, an arylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, a sulfonamide group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfonyl group,

an alkoxycarbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an azo group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a silyloxy group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an imide group, a heterocyclic thio group, a sulfinyl group, a phosphoryl group, an acyl group, a carboxyl group or a sulfo group; A represents $-NR^5R^6$ or a hydroxy group; R^5 and R^6 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group; R^5 and R^6 may be connected to each other to form a ring; B^1 represents $=C(R^3)-$ or $=N-$; B^2 represents $-C(R^4)=$ or $-N=$; R^1 and R^5 , R^3 and R^6 , and/or R^1 and R^2 may be connected to each other to form an aromatic or heterocyclic ring; in formula (I), Y represents an unsaturated heterocyclic group; and in formula (II), X represents a moiety of a color forming coupler.

2. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colored fine particles contain the oil-soluble dye and an oil-soluble polymer.
3. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the oil-soluble dye has a melting point of 200°C or less.
4. (previously presented) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the oil-soluble dye is selected from the group consisting of an anthraquinone dye, a naphthoquinone dye, a styryl dye, an indoaniline dye, an azo dye, a nitro dye, a coumarin dye, a methine dye, a porphyrin dye, an azaporphyrin dye and a phthalocyanine dye.

5. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 4, wherein the dye is contained in an amount of 0.05 to 50% by mass relative to the ink composition.

6. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 2, wherein the oil-soluble polymer has a carboxyl group as a dissociative group.

7. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 2, wherein the oil-soluble polymer has a molecular weight (Mw) of 1,000 to 200,000.

8. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 2, wherein the oil-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of a vinyl polymer, polyurethane and polyester.

9. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 2, wherein the oil-soluble polymer is used in an amount of 10 to 1,000 parts by mass relative to 100 parts by mass of the oil-soluble dye.

10. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colored fine particles are contained in an amount of 1 to 45% by mass relative to the colored fine particle dispersion.

11. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein an average particle diameter of the colored fine particles is 1 to 500 nm.

12. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of a polyvalent alcohol, an aliphatic monovalent alcohol, a heterocyclic compound and a sulfur-containing compound.

13. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic organic solvent is contained in an amount of 5 to 60% by mass relative to the ink composition.

14. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein a molecular weight of the surfactant is 200 to 1,000.

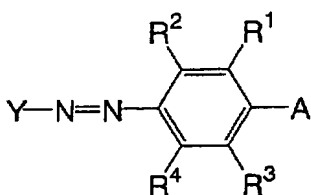
15. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant is contained in an amount of 0.5 to 5.0% by mass relative to the ink composition.

16. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of a neutralizing agent, a hydrophobic high-boiling point organic solvent, a dispersant and a dispersion stabilizer.

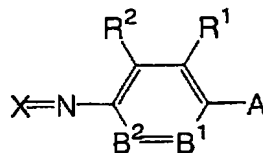
17. (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein a viscosity of the ink is 30 mPa·s or less.

18. (currently amended) An ink-jet recording method comprising ejecting a recording ink through nozzles onto a recording medium using an aqueous ink composition which comprises a hydrophilic organic solvent, a surfactant, and a colored fine particle dispersion containing an oil-soluble dye, and exhibits a dynamic surface tension of 25 to 35 mN/m, wherein the oil-soluble dye is a compound represented by formula (I) or (II):

Formula (I)



Formula (II)



wherein in formulae (I) and (II), R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an amide group, an arylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, a sulfonamide group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfonyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an azo group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a silyloxy group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an imide group, a heterocyclic thio group, a sulfinyl group, a phosphoryl group, an acyl group, a carboxyl group or a sulfo group; A represents -NR⁵R⁶ or a hydroxy group; R⁵ and R⁶ each

independently represent a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group; R⁵ and R⁶ may be connected to each other to form a ring; B¹ represents =C(R³)– or =N–; B² represents –C(R⁴)= or –N=; R¹ and R⁵, R³ and R⁶, and/or R¹ and R² may be connected to each other to form an aromatic or heterocyclic ring; in formula (I), Y represents an unsaturated heterocyclic group; and in formula (II), X represents a moiety of a color forming coupler.

19. (previously presented) The ink-jet recording method according to claim 18, wherein the ejecting of the recording ink uses a system selected from the group consisting of a charge regulating system, a drop-on-demand system, an acoustic ink-jet system and a thermal ink-jet system.

20. (previously presented) The ink-jet recording method according to claim 18, wherein a recording medium is selected from the group consisting of a plain paper, a coated paper and a plastic film.